



CVDA

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MEETING NOTES

MEETING DATE: June 29, 2009
 ISSUE DATE: June 30, 2009
 MEETING: LoMott & Lynnewood Gardens Public Meeting
 WRITTEN BY: Andy Hamilton, RLA
 SUBJECT: Public – Community Input for the Revitalization Plan Update

This meeting was attended by 37 members of the public. It was held at the LaMott Community Center on Sycamore Avenue. It started at 6:30 and continued until 9:00. Township Manager, David Kraynik opened the meeting with a description of the project. Hannah Mazzaccaro of Montgomery County presented what the Montgomery County Revitalization process has done in the past throughout the County and touched on the completed projects in Cheltenham. Bryan Havar presented Township specific revitalization efforts that stemmed from the original Cheltenham Township Revitalization Plan.

The public process started after the above mentioned presentations. The discussion started with reviewing the goals that were discovered through the public process in the original Revitalization Plan in 2002. The goals in the 2002 plan that were discussed were as follow.

Lynnewood Gardens

- Pedestrian Crosswalks
- Pedestrian Scaled Ornamental Lights
- Tree Maintenance / Removal / Replacement
- Gateway and District Signage
- Traffic Calming on overly wide Residential Streets
- Reduction of Crime
- Targeted Evening Hours Policing
- Reduce Number of Vehicle Accidents
- Other Community or Public Improvements

LaMott

- Tree Replacement and Maintenance Program
- Pedestrian Oriented Streetlights
- Sidewalk and Crosswalk Improvements
- Historic and Gateway Signs
- Investment in Historic Places, Sites and Objects

Additional Public comments that were shared at this meeting included the following:

Community Goals & Places:

- The community Garden is owned by Temple University. Is there a way that this land can become public land? Can there be water brought to this garden. New fencing is also sought.
- Create a walking tour with historic sculptures depicting people involved with history in the neighborhood.
- Bring back historic gardens.
- Historic and welcoming signage should be placed at the intersections of Cheltenham and Penrose and Cheltenham and Sycamore.
- The community needs jobs.

- The community tradesmen should assist other members of the community, particularly the elder population to keep up their houses.
- Could another school or institution locate at the Temple property?
- Senior or age restricted housing would be a good addition to the community.
- Historic Firehouse just received a grant for architecture and engineering. Future grants will be needed to implement restoration.
- How people maintain their property affect surrounding properties. There are issues with trash and general upkeep and decay. Where the Township can site violations it would be good for the community.
- Have the shopping center at Penrose and Cheltenham more inviting. Signs in English would be positive to the community.

Community Zoning Issues:

- Parking lot behind the shopping center at Penrose Avenue and Cheltenham Avenue is unsightly. The trash smells, there is no buffer and the paving is marginal. Stormwater with garbage flows onto the streets. *The parking lot is approximately 91,000 sf.*
- Some residents are filling their own properties with trash and debris. This is unsightly, unhealthy and reduces the impression and value of all surrounding properties.

Traffic Calming:

- The speed has increased on Sycamore now that there are no Temple students parking on the street. The street is now perceived to be overly wide.
- The intersection of Penrose and Cheltenham needs to have updated traffic signals to include left turn lighting sequences in all directions and pedestrian safety. Streetscape and landscaping would be part of this effort.
- On Cedar and Willow school buses pick up and drop off children. There are no signs warning motorists that this is a major location for school students.
- There should be stop signs at the intersection of Willow and Cedar, Willow and Penrose
- Speed Tables may be a way to reduce speed.
- Watch for children signage and Playground signage relative to the playground area. (After Meeting Comment)
- Flashing pedestrian crossing signs?

Streetscape:

- The sidewalk on Willow Street is failing.
- The Wall on Willow Street is failing.
- Many trees, particularly Sycamores are not well. Replacement and maintenance are needed.

At the end of the meeting the community was asked to rank the issues, concerns and goals that were presented by the community at this meeting. The ranking is as follows:

Prioritization of Issues:

1. Tradesmen in the Community assisting neighbors, particularly elderly neighbors to maintain their house and property.
 2. Traffic Calming, traffic signal alterations, pedestrian safety, signage and beautification at Penrose and Cheltenham. Also Sycamore and Cheltenham.
 3. Ongoing tree maintenance and replacement.
 4. Willow Avenue sidewalk, wall and street tree restoration.
 5. Community garden is currently Temple University property. How can it become public property?
 6. Walking tour of historic community and historic sculptures.
 7. Willow and Cedar stop sign and school bus ingress egress location control.
- All other issues that were brought up at the meeting received no votes which means that they are still strong community goals but were not voted upon and ranked as highly important.

Please note the there is an ongoing project in LaMott that will install pedestrian scaled ornamental street lighting. As a result there was no specific conversation about the lighting issues except a request to see specifically where lights will be installed. There may be public comment on lighting once the community has seen the lighting plan and / or when the lights have been installed.